



America's Tank Division



Across the board, the engineers are making the most of their training opportunity said 1st Lt. Sean Delaney, assault and obstacle platoon leader, C CO. 16th EN.

"I have three seasoned operators out of seven," said Delaney. "The seasoned guys are working to show the new guys what to do. We're like kids in a sand box."

Relatively new to the division, Soldiers like Pfc. Ernest Rosser and Pfc. Matthew Morgan, both of Co. C, 40th Engineers, received their initial experience with the ACE during the DIGEX and are gleaning the benefits of knowledge from the experienced Soldiers.

"This is my first time training on the ACE and I am having a lot of fun," said Rosser.

But there is much more behind the fun of piling up mounds of dirt and digging pits for armored vehicles to hide in. There are standards which must be met in order to be a qualified ACE operator.

"NCOs show us what the ACE's capabilities are, showing us what 'right' looks like, you need to feel the dirt and come into it own your own," said Morgan.

NCOs like Sgt. James Hertling, Co. C, 40th EN, and Sgt. John Phillips, Co. A, 16th EN, are providing the basis of knowledge for the new Soldiers.

"We are helping to build future NCOs by training," said Hertling. "I just figure I will teach them everything I know." As NCOs are considered to be the backbone of the Army, bringing to bear the experience of veteran engineers like Phillips can go a long way in providing a solid foundation of training.

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*Pfc. Ernest Rosser
ACE Operator
Company C, 16th Engineer Battalion*